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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 13 December 1948

SUBJECT RHEE Syngman's Defense Plans for Korea

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PLACE
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

1. The standing Korean army should be increased to 100,000 men. Senior army officers who fail to purge Communists in their ranks will be eliminated.
2. South Korea requires a militia of 500,000 men. Personnel should be selected from rightest youth groups and should be trained in each town and village. RHEE considers these youth groups to be the hope of the country, and will continue his attempts to unite them in a military organization which will include Japanese-trained and Chinese-trained Koreans.
3. RHEE will try to persuade U.S. officials to hold a naval demonstration in Korean waters in order to improve the morale of South Koreans and to intimidate North Koreans. He also wants a U.S. naval base in Korea.
4. American officers "must" lead Korean military personnel until Koreans are better trained. RHEE would like to have as many military advantages as can be obtained.
5. MacArthur is the person who is strong enough to keep the Far East out of the Communist camp.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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